

- 41 -

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub
a3

5

1. An equipment information system comprising:
an equipment database;
a database manager operable to access and interrogate
the equipment database;
a table maintenance module operable to perform system
maintenance on the equipment database through an
interface;

10

an inquiry module operable to query the equipment
database through an interface;

an inventory module operable to store and change data
in the equipment database through an interface, and to
allocate an order;

15

a transportation module operable to record the
transport of equipment from central inventory location to
a service center using the equipment database and through
an interface; and

20

an installations/removals module operable to record
the installation and removal of equipment using the
equipment database through an interface.

2. The equipment information system of Claim 1,
further comprising:

25

a stored procedure operable to access the data in the
equipment database.

3. The equipment information system of Claim 1,
further comprising:

30

a stored procedure operable to change the data in the
equipment database.

009250" 92508560

- 42 -

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

4. The equipment information system of Claim 2,
wherein the stored procedure is executed periodically.

5. The equipment information system of Claim 2,
wherein the stored procedure is executed on-demand through
a graphical user interface.

6. The equipment information system of Claim 2,
wherein the execution of the stored procedure is initiated
through an external interface.

7. The equipment information system of Claim 2,
wherein the execution of the stored procedure is initiated
through a second stored procedure.

8. The equipment information system of Claim 1,
further comprising:

an external interface operable to exchange
information with the equipment database.

9. The equipment information system of Claim 1,
further comprising:

a stored procedure operable to automatically order
equipment and to store the order in the equipment
database.

10. The equipment information system of Claim 1,
wherein the equipment database includes data organized
into tables.

- 43 -

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

11. The equipment information system of Claim 1, wherein the database manager and the equipment database are provided at a server and the modules are provided as an executable at a client.

12. The equipment information system of Claim 1, further comprising:

an allocation stored procedure operable to automatically allocate equipment through a stock number based on the receipt of an order.

930

5

009250.92509250

10

- 44 -

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

13. A method for managing equipment information comprising:

storing attributes of a piece of equipment in an equipment information database that indicates the type of the equipment when the equipment is received at a central inventory location;

adding an indication in the equipment information database that the equipment is available inventory;

receiving an order for equipment needed at a service center that is of the same type as the equipment;

allocating inventory to the order based on available inventory in the equipment information database;

shipping the equipment for the order to the service center;

installing the equipment;

updating the equipment information database to indicate that the equipment has been installed;

removing the equipment;

updating the equipment information database that the equipment has been removed; and

shipping the equipment to the central inventory location.

14. The method for managing equipment information of Claim 13, wherein the equipment is a transformer.

15. The method for managing equipment information of Claim 13, wherein the attributes of the equipment includes serial number and manufacturer.

16. The method for managing equipment information of Claim 13, wherein the attributes of the equipment includes

09560316-052600

identical

- 45 -

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

serial number and ^Rmanufacturer.

5 17. The method for managing equipment information of
Claim 13, wherein the storing attributes of a piece of
equipment includes using a bar code scanner.

10 18. The method for managing equipment information of
Claim 13, wherein the order was received from an external
system.

15 19. The method for managing equipment information of
Claim 13, further comprising:
deallocating the order after allocating the order.

20 20. The method for managing equipment information of
Claim 13, wherein the order was received from an
automatically generated order.

25 21. The method for managing equipment information of
Claim 13, further comprising:
filling the order after allocating the order.

- 46 -

EQUIPMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM AND METHOD

22. A method for allocating an order in an equipment information system comprising:

receiving an order to supply equipment from an equipment inventory at a central inventory location to a service center;

determining if the order is eligible for allocation;

determining if equipment is available in the equipment inventory to fill allocate the order;

allocating the order; and

filling the order.

ADD
A4

ADD
B2

30

009250" 9E508560

5

10